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By FRANK P. MACLENNAN.

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Reports are about as divergent and confusing as to what is happening in Mexico these days as they are in respect to the engagements between the British and the Turks in Mesopotamia.

In some respects, it will have to be conceded that war is a great institution. Under its rigors in Germany, the girls are not permitted to smear their faces with excessive quantities of rouge and powder. If they do, they are promptly taken into custody by the police and they have to wash the surplus cosmetics at the police station before they are given their liberty. In some of the German cities, too, the police arrest women whom they deem to be dressed too conspicuously. What a rich field the American cities would be these days for such German endeavors.

If the moving picture business continues at its present gait for a few more years, all the money in the United States will be in the possession of the movie actors, that is, if they are paid their reputed salaries in real, not stage money.

Considering the small-like pace at which the Italian army has been moving ahead, there is nothing so unreasonable in the report that the advancing "medical students" in Italy have plenty of time to pursue their studies while they are on duty at the front.

Suggestions that Carranza may not be able to restrain the Mexicans from rising against the American expedition if it is not called home in the near future have a reasonable ring to them. Carranza's control of the Mexicans has never been one of much more than paper propositions. But the probability is that the Mexicans themselves will think twice before showing their teeth at the American expedition unless they are egged on by treacherous leaders in the Carranza camp.

Another German White Book, this one an "Armed Merchantmen," comes to hand, also calls attention to the fact that Portugal has been issuing a hotly disloyal account of the Pink Book, or whatever colored pamphlet she's due to put out setting forth her official explanations for participating in the war. "Pink" was suggested because that's about the only hue that hasn't already been used for such a purpose by the other European belligerents.

Of course, there is little use weeping over spilled milk, but Congressmen Sullivan points out that instead of a deficit Uncle Sam would have a comfortable balance in the bank had the old tariff law, the much abused Paynd-Allen measure, been doing business during the past three years. Now has the President, that is, the government, delivered its promised goods in the matter of cutting down the cost of living.

Senators Stone and Borah are taking a stand in favor of whitening down the army plans and appropriations so that more money can be devoted to strengthening the navy. And their argument that the navy is the more important of the nation's weapons for defense is a sound one. But the nation's most essential need in the matters of military and naval preparedness is that it gets much more for its money in these particulars than it has been.

This timeless harvest that is declared to be in store for the wheat farmers of this country will be most annoying, but not nearly so much so as a grainless one would be.

TIMELY HINTS TO INVESTORS.

A good resolution could be made this year by a good many small savers throughout the United States and that is that they will not put their money into any enterprise unless they know something about it, writes Jasper, in Leslie's. The appalling figures of the postal department show that hundreds of millions of dollars have been taken from credulous savers by those who have tricked them into buying worthless stocks. They carry their own lesson. Let every one remember that

promoters who offer magnificent fortunes for a small investment are not in business for their health. Those who have fortunes in sight are not giving them away to others. Don't believe all that is told you by promoters of new schemes and remember that promises made in prospectuses by strangers carry no weight. In these days, when the small investor can buy one share of a good dividend-paying security, either paying in full or buying on a partial payment plan with a small deposit down, there is no reason why any should use his few dollars in speculating in worthless stocks such as promoters have been peddling for many years to their own enrichment and the impoverishment of their customers.

THE CITY'S MONEY.

A number of the bankers of Topeka seem to be endeavoring to convince the public that the money the city of Topeka deposits with them is not worth so much as the funds the state deposits or even the balance which the county carries with them. This is not readily understood.

The city of Topeka has been engaged during the last few days in an effort to secure 3 per cent for its surplus funds and the county made an effort to do likewise. The conclusion being that while the banks were paying the state 3 per cent they were paying for the same kind of money to the county only 2 1/2 per cent interest and to the city only 2 per cent.

The bankers now start a "back fire" wherein they announce to the county commissioners that they can pay hereafter only 2 per cent. Thus the county finds itself, during an effort trying to show that its money is as good as the state's, that it is not only in danger of failing to gain the extra one-half per cent, but even lose the one-half it now secures above the city's per cent.

The bankers aver that rates are down, that at the present time there is little demand for money and that they have difficulty in placing the funds they have. This is a technicality and the note to the county, this paper believes, to the effect that the banks can no longer pay the county 2 1/2 per cent, and only 2 per cent, is unworthy of coming from the great financial institutions in this city. If the State Journal were familiar with card-table language, it would say that the banks are "putting up a big bluff."

Let our splendid city financial institutions observe that outside of Topeka and Atchison and a few other localities, there is a crying demand for money right now from banks over the state, and that it is generally recognized that the day of cheap money is passing. This seems to be the consensus of unprejudiced opinion.

This country has already loaned enormous sums to foreign countries and, after the close of the war, there is sure to be a tremendous demand for money for reconstruction of the ruined cities, bridges and factories of the powers at war. There will be increased demand, not only in foreign fields, but at home. In a few weeks there will be big calls for money in the east and for the movement of crops. The tendency of interest rates for the near future is upward. The banks of this city have paid the city of Topeka the low rate of 2 per cent for some years. Don't be ungrateful, gentlemen, nor take advantage of Topeka.

Kindly note this also: there is no law requiring the state to keep its deposits in Topeka and, while the banks of this city are now paying the state only 3 per cent, outside banks in Kansas are paying the state 4 1/2, 5, and some banks as high as 6 per cent for the use of the state funds, all of which are, of course, amply secured.

It should also be remembered that the county of Shawnee is not obliged to deposit its funds in the banks of Topeka, but has the power to place them elsewhere if they see fit, and can do better in rates of interest.

The State Journal would not like to see any of the state's money now deposited in Topeka, or any of the county's money, diverted elsewhere in Kansas. The only desire this paper has in the matter is to see that the city of Topeka gets what it is entitled to, and that our money is not dissipated in Topeka by the banks of this city or by any one else, over the county's money or the state's money.

Considering the fact that Kansas women enjoy full suffrage, there seems to be an unusual amount of woman suffrage agitation in the state these days. And it would also appear that the proselyters for this cause might make much more hay elsewhere.

If the authorities at Washington can prolong the discussion with Carranza about the advisability of withdrawing the American troops from Mexico to the same extent that submarine controversy with Germany has been, there ought to be plenty of time for General Pershing and his commands to accomplish their mission before a conclusion is reached.

Journal Entries

Another difficult task is to convince a friend that you know more than he does.

Nor can the card player be accused of wasting time if he be a consistent winner.

It is safe to say that the man who has more money than he knows what to do with is a bachelor.

Some folk are so habitually grudging that it would probably pain them even to try and look pleasant.

Always Lavish.

Sometimes the early blossoms drop off tall to build.

But nothing ever hurts the crop.

Of early mud.

—Kansas City Journal.

RABBI WISE.
Topeka this week was honored with a visit from a distinguished gentleman from New York, Rabbi Wise. He has more than local fame as an orator and is a man of reputation and ability. He is engaged by the Anti-preparedness League to make a tour of the cities and present the argument in that cause.

He spoke Thursday noon at the Commercial club before a large audience of Topeka business and professional men. His eloquence provided a treat. His brilliancy and wit seasoned his story. He was fittingly introduced by Governor Capper, who paid a tribute to the speaker of the day.

Dr. Wise, before devoting himself to his subject, praised Governor Capper highly, and said that he stood out boldly as one of the few governors of the United States in his most pronounced views against the government going extensively into a program for preparedness.

Rabbi Wise presented a line of argument more or less stereotyped and along utterances similar to those heralded from the Chautauqua platform by the late Secretary William J. Bryan.

A close observer noted that the applause, as Dr. Wise went down, seemed to be rather because of his brilliant oratory and entertaining presentation of a subject not altogether pertinent just at this time.

His criticism of conscription in armies at the time of war reminded the audience of the early days of the '60s when the union was hanging in the balance, when President Lincoln was obliged to invoke conscription to enable him to put down the Rebellion.

His campaign in the western cities of Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City and Topeka encountered a decidedly cool wave and chilly reception in view of the state of unpreparedness just now an object lesson on the Mexican border. He is more profuse to go out and break the efforts of Congress at this moment to increase army facilities.

Dr. Wise returned to New York from this city. It is to be hoped with new thoughts and new ideas on a subject he discusses.

Jayhawker Jots

That noise we now hear mornings, expiring the University Daily Kansan, is a tennis racket.

As the Spring Hill New Era points out: It is difficult to lasso anything of consequence with red tape.

Incidentally, points out the Meriden Ledger, it is more profitable to go out and get a thing than to howl because it doesn't come your way.

A red-headed man knows his hair is red, says the Galena Republican.

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The Evening Story

The Perfect Lover.

(By Elizabeth E. Hoyt.)
Molly Foss was one of seven girls who had grown up together in Easton. At the time of this story the girls had reached the early twenties. Three of them were married, one engaged and two were "keeping steady company," as they said. Molly alone had shown no signs of losing her heart. She had studied nursing, and she declared to her friends that to cure the sick was all she wanted in life. And, of course, she might have gone on nursing peacefully forever had not Dr. Richard Randall come to town.

From the very first, it was evident that the young doctor took a great interest in Molly. He saw a good deal of her, for she was the only trained nurse who lived in Easton, and in a small town like that, a nurse is very much interested in another everybody else is pretty sure to know it. However, the town was sorry to see that Molly was so much interested in Dr. Richard Randall's devotion, and no one except Dr. Richard himself felt worse about this than Molly's six girls.

The first to speak to Molly about it was Carrie Smith, who had been Carrie Waters. Carrie's husband had died of an aneurism, and Molly had come to help Carrie out. Dr. Randall was the doctor. This was when Dr. Randall was new, and Carrie was the first person to see that he was head over heels in love with Molly. And so one night she told her friend just what she thought of her indifference to the young doctor.

"Molly, my dear, when I am going to speak to you plainly, for I think you can be saved something from my experience. I have never seen a girl so head over heels in love with a man who is so indifferent to her. Tell you it is a great thing to have the devotion of a man who is interested in the same things you are. My poor Henry could not get a thing in the world but automobiles and a rather look at a new catalogue than eat his dinner. My playing the piano disturbs him. I haven't a thing to talk about evenings nor a pleasure to share. It almost breaks my heart sometimes. Think it over, Molly, dear."

It was Helen Lake who spoke the next word to Molly about Dr. Richard. Helen was going with Ralph Griggs, a fine young man, but some four inches shorter than herself. "You ought to be mighty thankful, Molly Foss," Helen said, "to have a man like Dr. Randall to take you to places. I'd be pretty nice to him if I were you. He is so exactly the right size for you." Helen sighed. "Molly, I never spoke of this before, but a girl with such a young doctor ought to appreciate a good tall man. Poor Ralph—sometimes he almost breaks my heart."

A week or two later, Molly was calling on Betty Arnold Wister, whose husband, Peter, had brought her much love and a salary of fifteen dollars a week. "Molly," Betty said, "when I am just crazy over each other, but I'm sure it is really my duty to tell you how gloomy it is to think that the slightest mistake will send me both to the poorhouse. Oh, don't think I believe in marrying for money. Molly, but you ought to take it if you can. I don't want to then add to the list of the most prosperous person in Easton. I—I never spoke before of something like this—misfortune, but sometimes it almost breaks my heart. Grace McPherson overtook Molly a few days later. "Molly," she said, "you may think it is none of my business, but I am awfully glad to know I've seen quite a lot of Tom Sears lately, and I like him very much. But Sundays he just stays at home and smokes and reads and he comes home from evening meeting he always waits outside the church door. I feel so wicked, Molly! And all the good women of the church look at me so reproachfully, as if they were asking why I hadn't converted Tom yet. And you know, it's impossible—oh, dear! when I see Dr. Richard Randall coming to church every Sunday, and especially last Sunday, when he took the boys' class and Sunday school, I just envied you, Molly, and I thought I ought to tell you what that means. I never spoke of it before, but all the good women of the church look at me so reproachfully, as if they were asking why I hadn't converted Tom yet. And you know, it's impossible—oh, dear! when I see Dr. Richard Randall coming to church every Sunday, and especially last Sunday, when he took the boys' class and Sunday school, I just envied you, Molly, and I thought I ought to tell you what that means. I never spoke of it before, but all the good women of the church look at me so reproachfully, as if they were asking why I hadn't converted Tom yet. 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